

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

United States Department of Agriculture

Summary of Exhibit

FARM WOODLANDS

Since timber and fuel wood are required for the successful operation of a farm, every farm owner is interested in conserving and utilizing this resource instead of allowing it to go uncared for.

The farm woodland is a piece of ground that has possibilities for producing valuable crops of wood for fuel, fencing, and improvements, and even to yield a profit from commercial sales, if it is properly handled.

Timber will grow faster if undesirable trees are weeded out. Trees must be grown close together in order to produce the tall, straight, valuable logs demanded on the market. Trees standing far apart produce low branches and poor logs, and let the sunlight reach the ground. Too much sunlight permits the grass to grow and chokes the growth of the young trees so necessary for a permanent stand of timber, since a forest cannot maintain itself without reproduction.

The chief enemies of the woodlands are fire, insects, tree diseases, and unrestricted grazing. Under certain conditions livestock may be allowed to graze without injury to the trees, but hogs should be admitted only when the ground is to be rooted up for the setting out of new trees.

Protection from fire is the first and most essential thing to be considered in an ideal woodland, and is stressed because fire retards the growth of the older trees, destroys the young seedlings, burns up the nutritive grasses and those valuable for fertilizer, and destroys the humus of the soil.

When timber is cut, provision should be made for reforestation by protecting the young trees and by leaving seed trees. If young trees do not grow naturally, they should be planted.

The exhibit, FARM WOODLANDS, which is in booth form, measuring 13 feet wide by 8 feet deep, emphasizes the essential details to be looked after if best returns from farm woodlands are to be obtained, and illustrates each point effectively. Trees to be eliminated are contrasted in an interesting manner with those to be retained. In a woodland scene, brightly illuminated and viewed through an opening in the central section of the booth, the undesirable trees are marked with arrows leading to the legend, "Weed out these trees." Figures of men at work add a touch of human interest. On an easel in the foreground is a small panel with the sunlight filtering through the branches of a good stand of timber, leaving the ground shaded and, as a contrasting picture, the full glare of the sun striking the ground of a sparsely timbered plot. Similar illustrations and labels, with pertinent lettering, call attention to each major point.

Further information regarding the care and improvement of woodlands can be obtained from Farmers' Bulletin 1177 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

